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 Montana Block Management Stamp?

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12-21-2014, 05:56 AM

#1



shoots-straight
 Senior Member

Join Date: Oct 2005
 Location: Bitterroot Valley
 Posts: 4,578

Montana Block Management Stamp?

Montana Sportsmen's Alliance is soliciting comments on the prospects of legislation that would start a "Block Management Stamp" for sportsman that wish to use Block lands. We are flying this notice around the net to see if we can get some feed back. It's not MSA's bill but we are working with Rep. Flynn on some of the leg work here.



How much I wanted to take scalps, but it was not my kill.

Quote Reply

12-21-2014, 07:00 AM

#2

boutdoors
 Member

Join Date: Jan 2010
 Location: Los Angeles area
 Posts: 36

What price range are they talking about? Have hunted BMA's for the first time this year and would like to go back

Quote Reply

12-21-2014, 07:50 AM

#3

mixedbag
 Senior Member

Join Date: Nov 2009
 Posts: 1,182

You mean they want resident hunters to help start paying for block management to? I think it's a great idea and may help obtaining more land, or is it because they are selling less NR tags and need the \$\$ to pay existing landowners enrolled. The residents of Montana have the best license deals in the country. How much are they asking for the stamp? I would pay when I return again. It just seems like Montana hunters are used to NR carrying the load so I wonder how this will go over

Quote Reply

12-21-2014, 02:22 PM

#4



Bugle 'Em In
 Senior Member

Join Date: Aug 2011
 Location: Great Falls, MT
 Posts: 232

SS - Do you have further info on the proposal?

I'd be for such a stamp BUT only at a reasonable fee (what that is, I don't know) AND the stamp goes 100% towards Block Management program (not a slush fund for FWP).

Thanks for working towards securing hunting for the "common person" for years to come.

Quote Reply



14 October #13 268

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12-21-2014 02:44 PM



Wapiti Warrior
Senior Member

Join Date: Feb 2011
Location: Billings, Montana
Posts: 201

E

I think it is a good idea. The only deal breaker for me would be how it is worded on where the money goes? As long as it goes to block management or permanent easements for public hunting then I am all for it.

John
MT resident hunter ;-)

Quote 2 1

12-21-2014 02:45 PM



RobertR
Senior Member

Join Date: Aug 2012
Location: Glen, Montana
Posts: 153

E

Not to be critical of block management but these land owners are already getting payment.
My question is would this be double dipping or a general fund for block management. I have a lot of mixed feelings about block management from what I've seen.

I'M NOT AFRAID OF COMMITMENT I'VE BEEN HUNTING AND FISHING MY WHOLE LIFE!

Quote 2 1

12-21-2014 03:20 PM

MTsage
Member

Join Date: Dec 2014
Location: NW Montana
Posts: 23

E

I'm would be in favor of it assuming all the money is allocated directly to the program as others have said. I look forward to hearing more about this.

Quote 2 1

12-21-2014 03:29 PM

ingomar
Senior Member

Join Date: Jun 2009
Posts: 116

E

Here is the email that MSA sent out.

Rep. Kelly Flynn has a potential bill draft that would create a "Block Management Stamp". The specifics have not yet been finalized but initially he is thinking that it would be an opt out program so that those not wishing to hunt on Block Management Areas (BMA's) would not be charged any fee. Those wishing to hunt on BMA's would be required to purchase the stamp. The cost of the stamp has yet to be determined but Rep. Flynn is thinking \$25 per person. He is also trying to find out how best to handle youths, would it be free for them or 50% of adults or ? This stamp would be required of both residents and non-residents hunting on BMA's.

All monies raised would go into the Habitat Enhancement account.

Rep. Flynn has asked us to seek comments/thoughts on this potential bill. Please respond to these specific questions:

1. Would you support the creation of a Block Management Stamp?
2. Is \$25 an acceptable amount? If not, what would you suggest?
3. What, if any, cost should there be for youths 12-17 years of age?
4. Do you support the funds raised going to the Habitat Enhancement Fund? If not, where would you like to see it go?

It is a very good thing when a legislator asks our opinion prior to the bill draft being finalized. This is an important topic and your replies are important! Please feel free to share this with others.

Montana Sportsmen Alliance Leadership Group (MSA)

Quote 2 1

12-21-2014 03:44 PM



ydo84
Senior Member

Join Date: Dec 2010
Location: Michigan
Posts: 493

E

How exactly is BM currently being funded?

Quote 2 1

12-21-2014, 05:14 PM



huntin24/7
Member

Join Date: Jul 2010
Location: Eastern Montana
Posts: 70



I think a stamp like this to help supplement the BMA fund would be a great idea as long as it is reasonable. I'd happily contribute, if as mentioned, the money all goes to the BMA fund and not a slush fund. Maybe it would be enough to enroll some more acres into the program too.



12-21-2014, 05:16 PM

JLS

Senior Member

Join Date: Mar 2012
Location: Between the Columbia and the Clark Fork
Posts: 1,423



Quote:

Originally Posted by vdo84
How exactly is BM currently being funded?

Originally, Block Management was funded by the Outfitter Sponsored licenses, which were variable priced based on market demand. The additional monies from this were used to fund Block Management.

Since I-161, that money is gone, and now it is funded from the sale of the NR elk and deer licenses.

Years ago, Montanans had to buy a use stamp for state lands. An access fee was tacked onto the license fees and the separate stamp was eliminated. In a way, this seems like it is reinventing the wheel..

I fully support the Block Management Program, but in a way every hunter in Montana benefits. Even if you don't directly use the Block Management Program, it is giving hunters more options and therefore reducing competition on public lands. If you don't think hunters will drive clear across the state to hunt, think again. The more area you can provide to distribute hunters, the better off everyone is.

I have mixed feelings on a specific stamp. I think you could get more bang for your buck and not have to worry about compliance by simply adding an additional access fee on a conservation license and earmarking the money for Block Management.



12-21-2014, 05:23 PM



Topgun 30-06
Senior Member

Join Date: Jun 2009
Location: Allegan, MI
Posts: 1,869



I have no plans on hunting in Montana, but think it's a great idea if it is used properly, as mentioned by most respondents here so far. I don't feel like \$25 is asking too much and maybe youth rates should be half that. JLS did make an excellent point though that I hadn't thought much about until reading his post. I wish there was something like that in Wyoming that specifically went to induce more acreage into the WIHA and HMA programs there. Right now I'd bet that a large percentage of people using them pay little or nothing into the Access Yes Program because it's a voluntary program with a very low percentage of overall hunters donating anything meaningful into it.

Last edited by Topgun 30-06; 12-21-2014 at 05:25 PM.



12-21-2014, 05:24 PM



shoots-straight
Senior Member

Join Date: Oct 2005
Location: Bitterroot Valley
Posts: 4,578



Quote:

Originally Posted by vdo84
How exactly is BM currently being funded?

Mostly through NR license fees. A couple of bucks comes from each resident.

I think at least 1/2 of the money could be set aside to fund more, and better pieces of block.

A portion could be funneled into "Habitat Montana Fund"

How much I wanted to take scalps, but it was not my kill.



12-21-2014, 05:51 PM

mixedbag
Senior Member

Join Date: Nov 2009
Posts: 1,182



Curious as to why residents would find it OK to double dip on the NR. We pay for your block management with crazy license fees. Maybe just raise your license fees \$20 and forget the stamp. I agree with the poster that mentioned how it spreads hunters out by having the access. If someone's too cheap to pay 20-25 bucks then that's more people on state ground. Don't give them that option, just raise license costs to residents by \$20 and earmark that extra money towards BM only. What's the present cost of resident sportsman licenses now? I thought they were \$50 but that was years ago. Not sure Montana can afford to keep giving it to the NR hunter and expect to sell more licenses.



12-21-2014, 06:27 PM

#15

Coyotes-R-Us
Member

Join Date: Sep 2014
Posts: 63



Absolutely NOT!!!!

In my mind the **block Management** program is just one step from FEE hunting. I'm paying to hunt or get access to land I already own!!!!

I almost NEVER hunt **block**, I discourage the hunting on **Block** !

90% of the time the only reason the **block** has ANT hunting opportunity is the fact there is a ton of state and fed land in the BMA.

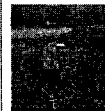
I will fight any attempt to make me get an **stamp** to hunt in the crap areas they allow way to many people to hunt what little game that's left on a BMA!!!!!!

Just my take.



12-21-2014, 08:57 PM

#16



RobertR
Senior Member

Join Date: Aug 2012
Location: Glen, Montana
Posts: 153



If Kelly Flynn is involved I won't support the stamp.

The fees and the more general licences go up the more we are headed for fee hunting and we don't need Montana to be like Texas. We already are having a decrease in hunter recruitment and FWP can't manage the game numbers we have now.

I'M NOT AFRAID OF COMMITMENT I'VE BEEN HUNTING AND FISHING MY WHOLE LIFE!



12-21-2014, 09:04 PM

#17

JLS
Senior Member

Join Date: Mar 2012
Location: Between the Columbia and the Clark Fork
Posts: 1,423



Quote:

Originally Posted by **RobertR**
We already are having a decrease in hunter recruitment

One of the primary reasons hunters quit, or never go hunting is lack of access.



12-21-2014, 09:26 PM

#18

BuzzH
Senior Member

Join Date: Jan 2001
Location: Laramie, WY
Posts: 7,138



The reason we're having a decrease in hunter recruitment is because the #1 issue isn't being addressed.

Ask a fisherman if they like fishing in the kitchen sink.

"...the world outside, which my brother and I soon discovered, was full of bastards, the number increasing rapidly the farther one gets from Missoula, Montana." -Norman Maclean

"They were still so young they hadn't learned to count the odds and to sense they might owe the universe a tragedy"
-Norman Maclean



12-21-2014, 09:49 PM

#19

vdo84
Senior Member

Join Date: Dec 2010
Location: Michigan
Posts: 493



I like the idea and would support it.

Would it ever be possible to have a program like this where the funds were used 100% to open up existing landlocked public land? Like if a landowner wanted to, pay him a certain amount of money to create a permanent easement to cross a small piece of his land or put in a trail that would allow access to public lands?



12-21-2014, 10:43 PM

#20

HalfAce
Member

Join Date: Jul 2013
Posts: 37

As a NR, I could support a BM stamp. I wouldn't mind paying \$5 or \$10 bucks. Even \$25 bucks isn't bad when you look at it separately as only \$25. But its getting harder and harder on me to look at the 4 figure sum the FWP charges me each spring when I put my app in for the Combo tag and for the permits I have yet to draw.

Most of my friends and family got priced out with the tag increase a few years ago, but I love hunting MT too much to let it go. So I continue purchasing tags, but every dollar over \$1,000 hurts a little more. So I do not know if I could agree with a \$25 increase.

Like I said, \$25 isn't much, but it may be enough to break the proverbial NR camels back when you add it to all of the other fees. Just my .02 cents.



12-21-2014, 10:44 PM

#21



shoots-straight
Senior Member

Join Date: Oct 2005
Location: Bitterroot Valley
Posts: 4,578

Quote:

Originally Posted by vdo84

I like the idea and would support it.

Would it ever be possible to have a program like this where the funds were used 100% to open up existing landlocked public land? Like if a landowner wanted to, pay him a certain amount of money to create a permanent easement to cross a small piece of his land or put in a trail that would allow access to public lands?

That's why I would like to see some of the money put in the "Habitat Montana" Fund. Maybe use it for the leasing of private to access land locked public only.

Thanks for the comments either pro or con.

Keep them coming.

How much I wanted to take scalps, but it was not my kill.



12-22-2014, 12:59 AM

#22

Pagosa
Senior Member

Join Date: Nov 2011
Location: Montana
Posts: 286

I'm all for the \$25 resident fee for accessing BMA lands. Its private property and they don't have to allow anyone to access their lands. I've hunted on several BMA that were excellent and some that were overhunted but still good experiences. I spend \$75 to drive one-way to elk hunt in either Region 3 or 4 from northwest MT. Its sounds like the stamp is not mandatory if you want to stick with BLM/Forest Service lands.



12-22-2014, 02:22 AM

#23

Redwood
Senior Member

Join Date: Jun 2013
Location: Billings, MT
Posts: 501

Personally I wouldn't do a stamp; I would raise license cost for every resident around \$25. As residents we need to take more ownership in funding. As for bma, I'm a big fan but it needs work. Lots of the enrolled land is low quality and the landowners get screwed everytime someone hunts without signing in. The more land open to the public, the better off we all are. With that said, I would focus on all the landlocked public land and get that opened up. Get the corner crossing bs figured out.



12-22-2014, 03:09 AM

#24



Bambistew
Senior Member

Join Date: Dec 2002
Location: Chugiak, AK
Posts: 3,957

I'm all for a stamp. Got to pay to play. I think it should be included as part of a NR combo license.

Youth should also be free.

Grilled meat and a cold beer... Life is good!
"Professional Hunter" and King of Namia



12-22-2014 03:53 AM

#25



Gerald Martin
Senior Member

Join Date: Jul 2009
Posts: 1,686

As a Montana resident I do think our license fees are very cheap. I could support an increase in the \$2 Hunting Access Enhancement fee if it was earmarked to fund block management. I don't support raising nonresident fees any higher than they are now. As it is, my brother and friends who used to be able to afford to hunt Montana when they drew every two years are being priced out of the game and no longer come.

I also think that some of the existing Block Management money could be managed more efficiently by dropping some of the marginal properties that don't support much game and paying more money to properties that have better habitat and animals. There's a big difference in quality out there, and I've hunted properties on both ends of the spectrum.

Overall, Block Management is a good program that needs to be adequately funded.



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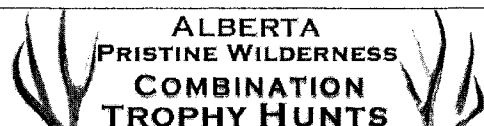
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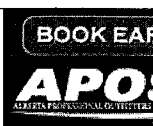
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12-22-2014, 04:15 AM

#26

1976

Member

Join Date: Jan 2011
Location: Mohall, ND
Posts: 24

As a NR I already feel like I fund the block management program plenty well and would like to see the MT residents start pushing the cart a little more then they are. As far as though people that say Block Management is over hunted and the land owners are over payed and double dipping as coyotes R us was implying all I can say is bull butter. If some of those people would venture farther than 40 rods from the pickup they would see a different world and find that deer for the wall.



12-22-2014, 09:44 AM

#27

RobG
Senior Member

Join Date: Dec 2010
Location: Bozeman, MT
Posts: 1,501

Quote:

Originally Posted by JLS

Originally, Block Management was funded by the Outfitter Sponsored licenses, which were variable priced based on market demand. The additional monies from this were used to fund Block Management.

They ought to bring that back before hitting us with another fee. Doing away with it has accomplished nothing other than hurting block management and jacking up non-resident license fees. The people who funded it did so quite happily to get a guaranteed license.



12-22-2014, 01:27 PM

#28

PatrickK

Member

Join Date: Dec 2014
Posts: 19

I have written a reply and deleted it several times. Although resident fees are very cheap, some of us do not have extra funds that can go to a separate block management fee. I am a stay at home dad and I cherish my hunting time. I mainly use block management in the Shields Valley to fill whitetail doe tags. I would view 25 dollars for block management as half a tank of gas - gas that could get me to my normal haunts 5 or 6 times. I guess what I am trying to say is that 25 dollars, although reasonable, would price me out of block management.

I would also be concerned that if we start paying an extra fee for block management, that fee would increase and become unreasonable.

Regarding FWP and their budget issues from the lack of NR hunting license fees. They need to look at different ways to get revenue. Lots of people use the river access points provided by FWP for recreational activity that is essentially free. Maybe a 1 dollar per season parking sticker for fishing access sites would spread the "love" around a little?

Patrick

Last edited by PatrickK; 12-22-2014 at 01:29 PM.



12-22-2014, 01:36 PM

#29

Hem
Senior Member

Join Date: May 2009
Location: Three Forks, MT
Posts: 686

I would happily pay for a stamp if the money truly is earmarked only for BM. I also would pay a higher resident fee, and higher app fee for the Big three. I agree with the comment "you have to pay to play". Too many people griping about cost on both sides of the border. I don't have any sympathy....work harder and prioritize your hunting fund. I do think the Block management program needs fine tuning, many aspects already mentioned. Residents get edged out by non residents on the ranches that require written permission and a reservation in advance. I hunt solo and many times make a reservation well in advance, but always have to contend with large parties of non res. who reserve for a whole week and shoot everything in sight. That's my gripe.



12-22-2014, 03:20 PM

#30



Join Date: Jul 2011
Location: Billings, Montana
Posts: 191



I would be in-favor of a stamp to raise money for Block Management/Access. I don't use Block Management too much now, but I do see the benefits for both the landowner and the hunters. The Block Management programs is not perfect, but it's better than not having it. Just like all programs, it can be improved upon. Personally, I would be willing to pay as much as \$25.



12-22-2014 04:21 PM

#31



Join Date: Dec 2000
Location: Bozeman, MT
Posts: 9,413



As someone who got his teeth handed to him in Helena a decade ago while trying to get something like this going, a few thoughts come to mind.

I think a stamp is a good idea and a way to get residents to fund more of it. The time has come; maybe better stated, long since passed, where we have to start paying more of our own way.

It will be hard to add it to a basic license amount as some have stated. BMA availability and use is pretty low in the NW part of the state, growing in use and availability as you go east. Getting legislators on board to increase the basic part of the license fee will be hard, especially those in the NW, given they have very little BMA useage by local hunters. Yeah, some travel east and use BMAs, but many in that part of the state have never set foot on a BMA.

A lot can be done to improve the program. Way too much money is allocated for bird hunting, when bird hunting contributes a very small portion of funds toward the program. Seems reasonable if 90% of the funding comes from big game licenses, 90% of the lands should be focused on big game. Right now, it is easier to manage and enroll bird properties, so those are a disproportionate amount of the program, relative to funding.

An online reservation system would save the program a ton of money. WY and ID have much smaller programs, but they provide way more acres of access per dollar spent. And, they focus all on big game. They look at how much additional public access can be provided and score the properties that way.

MT's BMA program was the first and has a lot a good attributes, but from a technology standpoint, which would greatly increase efficiency and enroll a lot more acreage for the same, or less, money, MT is in the dark ages.

I think it might be hard to get a stamp passed until the BMA program takes a few steps into the modern day and starts using their money more efficiently. We have some really good models to look for as some new ideas; mostly in WY, ID, KS. The acres per dollar enrolled in those three states makes MT looks like the Federal Government buying \$1,000 toilet seats. What we get, per dollar spent, is much lower in comparison.

Those states use a lot of non-financial incentives. Kansas example, everything is "Walk-in" only. I know that upsets some people, but as a result a KS landowner does not have his roads destroyed in wet weather, does not have to worry about vehicles spreading noxious weeds, does not have to worry about vehicles starting fires in hot/dry weather, does not have to worry who is where, as they all have a designated parking spot from which to start walking. As a result, the cost/risk equation for the KS landowner is much less, so he is willing to enroll more acres for the same fee, or the same acres for less.

WY gives their landowners a lot of input. They have both a Walk-in program and a Hunter Management program like our BMA. When you look at how they rank properties and what they enroll, they are able to enroll some of the best big game properties in a unit, for elk, deer, and antelope. In MT, we struggle to enroll much for elk. WY has found ways to compete in the very expensive world of elk access. We could learn a lot from that.

ID prioritizes based on how much additional public acreage a property can provide access to. As a result, the access issue in ID is getting addressed with a lot fewer dollars than in MT.

As much as I pressed for a stamp in past years and I have no problem with a stamp, I would almost make it part of a bill that changes some of the rules/priorities/SOPs that the department uses in administering this program. Add the revenue from a \$25 stamp to some of the efficiencies and implement some of the ideas working in other states, and you would be able to really do something big in the way of improving the status of access in MT.

Without those changes to the program, I wonder how much good the \$25 stamp is going to do; surely some good, but seems time to start pushing for some changes to insure we are getting more for the dollars we are spending. I'm not an expert with the answers. I was asked by the PLPW Council to give a presentation that incorporated my perspective from all the states I hunt and the public/private access properties I hunt in those states. In my research, it became apparent that Montana could benefit from looking toward those states for some new ideas that get us a lot more for the dollars we are spending.

My name is Randy Newberg and I approved this post. What is written is my opinion, and my opinion only.

"Hunt when you can. You're gonna run outta health before you run outta money."



12-22-2014 05:42 PM

#32



Join Date: Aug 2011
Location: Kalispell, MT
Posts: 229



I don't have a firm opinion on the stamp yet. As a communications professional, though, I would recommend you come up with a better name than "Block Management Stamp." I think Block Management is a good program, but it has a terrible name. PM me if you want to discuss further.

"The danger of civilization, of course, is that one might piss one's life away on nonsense," Jim Harrison.



12-22-2014, 05:52 PM

1_pointer

Senior Member

Join Date: Dec 2000
Location: Indiana
Posts: 11,157

L

Just tack on \$5 to everybody's tag, license, ATV plate, etc. I don't mind paying for it, but I do dislike having to remember to buy and tote one more thing.

Quote Reply

12-22-2014, 06:02 PM

**have gun will travel**

Senior Member

Join Date: Apr 2012
Posts: 240

E

So do hikers, campers, rafters, or rock climbers buy any kind of stamp or license? Why do hunters foot the bill for everything I am a non resident now, and the cost is pretty high to hunt in MT.

Quote Reply

12-22-2014, 06:07 PM

**have gun will travel**

Senior Member

Join Date: Apr 2012
Posts: 240

E

my comments are just in general not specific to BMA

Quote Reply

12-22-2014, 06:39 PM

**Randy11**

Senior Member

Join Date: Jan 2009
Location: Bitterroot Valley
Posts: 3,696

E

I wonder if a stamp might turn off a lot of people from trying Block management for themselves that hear bad things about it otherwise. I guess I've been very lucky, I've always had really good luck finding quality hunting on BMA pieces.

Not sure if the stamp is the right way to go about it, but somehow residents need to start funding their share of it.

"The emotions that good hunters need to cultivate are love and service more than courage. The sentiments of the hunt then become translated into art." - James Swan

Quote Reply

12-22-2014, 07:24 PM

PatrickK

Member

Join Date: Dec 2014
Posts: 19

E

Quote:

Originally Posted by **have gun will travel**

So do hikers, campers, rafters, or rock climbers buy any kind of stamp or license? Why do hunters foot the bill for everything I am a non resident now, and the cost is pretty high to hunt in MT.

You hit the nail on the head but a lot of hikers, campers, and rock climbers are using the National Forest and not land administered by FWP - but for the most part hunters foot the bill either through license fees or taxes via Pittman Robertson.

Patrick

Quote Reply

12-22-2014, 07:28 PM

**teamhoyt**

Senior Member

Join Date: Dec 2013
Location: glendive, MT
Posts: 116

E

Well I tried to read most of the posts before replying but some of this may have been covered. My thoughts. I'm a resident

100% for higher resident fees

I have no problem paying more to support the block management however it needs to be done stamp, separate allocation ect.

I agree with the majority that the program has issues that need addressed

the FWP has a program called unlocking state lands where if my memory serves me the offer a \$500 tax deduction for this access. by looking at the results of that this past year I think there were only 3 or 4 of these unlocked in the state.

Some BM land is a tilled up field and some generally may have no animals on it, BUT may allow access to more public land. I'm sure that is looked at when these properties are enrolled.

A few thing I don't like about some BM land is that if you go to get permission on a type 2 land and the landowner doesn't give it to you because he wants to save the

particular species ie. pheasant, antelope ect. I think if the land is open to all legal species then it should be open. NOT find out you can't after driving out to the ranch. I'm all for them having say in what's huntable it should just be done up front when the land is enrolled or renewed.

I would also like to see an online reservation process for those BMA's that want to control hunters. This does a couple things, Lowers cost to FWP, allows hunters to see what is available for the whole season and then plan accordingly, and takes away the landowners from allowing the property to be "booked up" by their friends and Family for the whole year. This would also help this particular part of it to be more transparent.

I Hunt BMA's a lot and each one serves its own purpose, I support funding it more and would support a bit of tweaking to the system as well. \$25 is a good price.



12-22-2014 07:45 PM

#39



Greenhorn
Senior Member

Join Date: Dec 2000
Posts: 4,768

Quote:

Originally Posted by **teamhoyt**

takes away the landowners from allowing the property to be "booked up" by their friends and Family for the whole year. This would also help this particular part of it to be more transparent.

I Hunt BMA's a lot and each one serves its own purpose, I support funding it more and would support a bit of tweaking to the system as well. \$25 is a good price.

^^This.

I'd pay \$25 a year, for me and my kids, even if we'd only use it occasionally for bird hunting. It's a great idea and those who use it should cough it up, resident and non-resident. However, if I pay \$25 it's got to be at least a fair system. Currently it's abused by both hunters and landowners. I've called landowners multiple times on the first AM (before 8AM) the first listed day they would take reservations, and they claimed to be booked solid the entire archery and rifle season, every day. Riiight - Booked solid with friends and relatives and still get to pocket the FWP's check. There's a ton of birdhunting BMAs that would generate a ton of money if every hunter was required to have a \$25 stamp.



12-22-2014 08:27 PM

#40



Randy11
Senior Member

Join Date: Jan 2009
Location: Bitterroot Valley
Posts: 3,696

Yeah, there's some serious tomfoolery going on on some of the pieces for sure. I tried getting access to one ranch multiple times this year when they were supposedly full, yet when I drove past the parking area on those days there was never anyone parked there. It got old fast.

"The emotions that good hunters need to cultivate are love and service more than courage. The sentiments of the hunt then become translated into art." - James Swan



12-22-2014 08:37 PM

#41

BuzzH
Senior Member

Join Date: Jan 2001
Location: Laramie, WY
Posts: 7,138

I agree with others that if the system in Montana is fixed FIRST, then having to pay for a stamp is not a problem. I'd pay it as a NR of Montana. It would be pretty tough for me to pay more for the same old same old.

For the record, Wyomings AccessYes program opens just shy of 5 acres/dollar spent. All the HMA applications for permission slips are handled on-line and by the WYGF.

Its hard to find much wrong with Wyomings HMA/WIA programs, with the exception of having more funding. The generosity of some of the Landowners is pretty amazing.

"...the world outside, which my brother and I soon discovered, was full of bastards, the number increasing rapidly the farther one gets from Missoula, Montana." -Norman Maclean

"They were still so young they hadn't learned to count the odds and to sense they might owe the universe a tragedy"
-Norman Maclean



12-22-2014 08:46 PM

#42



jvanderlinde
Senior Member

Join Date: Jun 2012
Location: Mayer, MN
Posts: 151

I dont support the stamp being that im a NR and feel i pay my fair share and then sum. Does montana have a Access yes program? I think people would donate a small fee if there was a option. I like the program and have hunted several BMA being succesfull.



12-22-2014 09:07 PM

#43

teamhoyt
Senior Member

Join Date: Dec 2013
Location: glendive, MT
Posts: 116



Quote:

Originally Posted by Big Fin

Those states use a lot of non-financial incentives. Kansas example, everything is "Walk-in" only. I know that upsets some people, but as a result a KS landowner does not have his roads destroyed in wet weather, does not have to worry about vehicles spreading noxious weeds, does not have to worry about vehicles starting fires in hot/dry weather, does not have to worry who is where, as they all have a designated parking spot from which to start walking. As a result, the cost/risk equation for the KS landowner is much less, so he is willing to enroll more acres for the same fee, or the same acres for less.

I do like this aspect. I have been able to secure permission on some properties that normally don't allow a lot of hunting by offering to walk in from certain access points. I was disappointed on 4 separate occasions last fall while elk hunting in the breaks by vehicles or atvs driving past me on closed roads on BMA's. Not anything more frustrating than walking in a mile or two and having guys driving past you. also several times one particular BMA in the breaks is shut down in some aspect during the archery season due to fire danger, so they either have the BMA closed or just "walk in only". The issue of guys driving wherever is not limited to BMA's of course but also a big problem on state land where if I remember correctly you can NOT drive unless its a county rd.



12-22-2014, 09:19 PM

#44

antlerradar

Member

Join Date: Oct 2012
Posts: 53

The Licensing and Funding Advisory Council Looked at several of the funding issues mentioned above. We debated the new fee for residents to fund more BMAs. In the end we were all in favor of finding a way for residents to start funding Block Management. but felt we should concentrate more on funding all of FWP and that Block Management funding would be better left to PLPW.

There was also a lot of discussion about getting funding from non hunting users. We were uneasy with making decision on this as the non hunting users didn't have representation on the council. We were also uneasy with non hunting community funding FWP and then wanting a say in how FWP operated and managed game.

Antlerradar



12-22-2014, 10:24 PM

#45

**vdo84**
Senior MemberJoin Date: Dec 2010
Location: Michigan
Posts: 493

If the FWP said they needed to raise the cost of licenses for residents, how much of an increase would it realistically be able to get through? \$5, \$10, \$20? Or would there be a rebellion with a 1 cent increase?



12-22-2014, 11:17 PM

#46

Straight Arrow

Senior Member

Join Date: Jun 2009
Location: Gallatin Gateway, MT
Posts: 851

Quote:

Following review of the council's recommendations by a legislative oversight committee, a \$3 fishing license increase and an \$8 hunting license increase are being proposed.

There has been much discussion and speculation regarding a Montana resident hunter license increase, which is needed to more adequately fund FWP. The quote from above was from the FWP website and describes the most recent agreed upon proposal. I am sure that it will be hashed, rehashed, and vetted ad nauseum in the upcoming legislative session ... but I am also fairly confident that there will be some increase in fees. I support increased license fees, as well as improving and increasing funding for BM.



12-23-2014, 02:13 AM

#47

Flynarrow

Member

Join Date: Nov 2011
Posts: 39

Have suggested such a stamp for years.....BMAs are important for pheasant hunters as well as big game hunters. It is a "user pay" concept so if you dont choose to use it, the stamp doesnt cost you. It should apply to both residents as well as non-residents.

There is indeed a need for a BM overhaul.....some parcels offer only space....not habitat, but yet are signed up year after year. Does anybody actually evaluate habitat as part of the process? Yes to those who suggest an online reservation system. And for the landowner and those who play by the rules, some enforcement of sign in and the rules and banning those who don't comply.

And another suggestion to weigh....how about a youth BMA stamp (maybe reduced cost) that would be used to sign up BMAs only for kids? At least one upland bird BMA area near each major town so parents could introduce kids to upland bird hunting (and other hunting too) without wild roosters or competition with crowds of adults?



12-23-2014, 02:51 AM

#48

Join Date: Jul 2011



brownbear932008
Senior Member

Location: Northern WV.
Posts: 536

E.

Boy I really enjoy ditch parrot hunting on several of the BMA's speaking from a NR perspective I can't see spending another dollar on any price increase in MT. I have been coming out 15 years now spending my hard earned money and last year I found myself in ID. for the first time and am seriously considering dropping the MT option all together people are being priced out slowly. I hate it but its the sad truth. The 161 really hurt the state in my book. I'm by far no know it all with the how's and why's of these things in MT. I follow it semi loosely.

I also don't agree with hikers, anglers and so forth kicking money into BMA's I may be wrong but I've never seen anything but hunters on BMA's so why should an angler have to pay into the program. I guess it is a complicated issue. I really feel when the Outfitter Sponsored license was changed through 161 it was a mistake and people are just starting to see that. Let those guys that have the bucks going on outfitted hunts foot that bill on those license. If they can afford 10,000 to drop on a elk hunt they don't mind for the most part I suppose. I'd hate to see the program go belly up there are some great properties in the program some are no so great and should be taken out IMO. I just know I wouldn't purchase a permit to bird hunt that's the only time I use BMA's myself.



12-23-2014, 03:07 AM

#49



brownbear932008
Senior Member

Join Date: Jul 2011
Location: Northern WV.
Posts: 536

E.

I've called landowners multiple times on the first AM (before 8AM) the first listed day they would take reservations, and they claimed to be booked solid the entire archery and rifle season, every day. Riiighht - Booked solid with friends and relatives and still get to pocket the FWP's check. There's a ton of birdhunting BMAs that would generate a ton of money if every hunter was required to have a \$25 stamp.[/QUOTE]

I had no idea things like this were going on with the BMA's I think number one it is plain out not ethical and number two basically stealing money IMO. The system should be changed to fix this issue. How could it be changed to take these issues out of the program wasting money?



12-23-2014, 01:42 PM

#50

PatrickK
Member

Join Date: Dec 2014
Posts: 19

E.

I also don't agree with hikers, anglers and so forth kicking money into BMA's I may be wrong but I've never seen anything but hunters on BMA's so why should an angler have to pay into the program. I guess it is a complicated issue. I really feel when the Outfitter Sponsored license was changed through 161 it was a mistake and people are just starting to see that. Let those guys that have the bucks going on outfitted hunts foot that bill on those license. If they can afford 10,000 to drop on a elk hunt they don't mind for the most part I suppose. I'd hate to see the program go belly up there are some great properties in the program some are no so great and should be taken out IMO. I just know I wouldn't purchase a permit to bird hunt that's the only time I use BMA's myself.[/QUOTE]

I think the suggestion that other outdoors users chip in was in a more broad sense to help fund FWP and not really aimed at block management. I don't think non-residents need to pay any more to hunt in the state. What needs to happen is that FWP needs to become more efficient with the money it already has. There are not that different from other government agencies in that the more money they have the more will get wasted and there is no end to their need for more money.

Patrick



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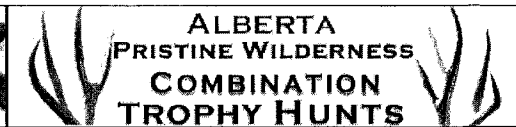
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12-23-2014, 02:10 PM

#51



brownbear932008
 Senior Member

Join Date: Jul 2011
 Location: Northern WV.
 Posts: 536



I do agree Patrick most all govt. agencies are terrible at spending money. I can def say that I have worked for local, state, federal now for almost 20 years and one is as bad as the next at spending money. The more they have the more it's wasted and on top of that it's a larger burden on tax payers. I see what you mean on other users being meant in a broader way. I totally agree with that hunters do carry a very heavy burden in MTFWP it seems. I tell you guys what there sure is some work to be done out there as of lately. I really hope things make a turn for the better that state holds a special place with me no doubt.

Quote

12-23-2014 02:31 PM

#52

Eric Albus
 Senior Member

Join Date: May 2012
 Posts: 313



well, from what I have read here, can't even come to a consensus amongst the like minded OYO folks and other the other assortment of "liberal minded thinkers" on a stamp(you can each sort out who you are) ☺

Whilst something is needed to tax the resident sportsman to help fund BM a \$25 stamp is certainly not out of order....but what pray tell are the good folks going to see for their extra \$25. This is the same thing as the non-resident whose license went up 40-60% after 161....did the "common man" see a 40% increase in quality of hunt? in acres to access??? No, they did not see anything. The "unwashed masses" were sold a false bill of goods....promises to "open more access", "break the outfitters", "level the playing field". I have often wondered if the those supporting the bill did not know what would happen, giving them, and their friends, access to easy draw licenses and enabling them to come in and lease hunting lands for themselves? I digress...back on track.

A stamp certainly is not a bad plan, but perhaps something should be done to separate the land, some lands should be managed for quality, the buyers of the stamp put into a lottery to hunt an area near them that is managed for quality? I know this will fly in the face of several of you, but quality does not come easy or cheap....personally I would rather hunt a quality place once every 2-3 years than hunt \$hit every year....it may not be tenable, but is something that should be thought about at the very least.

Quote

12-23-2014, 02:44 PM

#53



Sytes
 Senior Member

Join Date: Sep 2009
 Location: Montana
 Posts: 2,444



Quote:

Originally Posted by **Straight Arrow**

There has been much discussion and speculation regarding a Montana resident hunter license increase, which is needed to more adequately fund FWP. The quote from above was from the FWP website and describes the most recent agreed upon proposal. I am sure that it will be hashed, rehashed, and vetted ad nauseum in the upcoming legislative session ... but I am also fairly confident that there will be some increase in fees. I support increased license fees, as well as improving and increasing funding for BM.

Agree.

I also agree to the idea of those who use block management should be the ones on the hook to fork over a small fee. in my opinion, block management is an extreme value to those of us who use this as an opportunity in our hunting. I would support and purchase an additional stamp if I knew that money would go specifically, without political crapola, to our block management operation. Though is it possible to avoid the crapola hands in the cookie jar?

Live to work or work to live... Your choice ☺

Quote

12-23-2014, 03:43 PM

#54

shoots-straight

Join Date: Oct 2005
 Location: Bitterroot Valley
 Posts: 4,578



Senior Member

E

I'd like us to stay of topic here.

For the record, 161 has made far more money for the state of Montana and BM than had we been left to the old Outfitter set asides. FACT!

There has not been one Outfitter using client that did not have access to a tag. FACT!

Had we continued the program, OSP tags would be at a huge cut rate now. FACT!

There was no promise of having more lands opened up. That's always been the imagination of those that have enjoyed the subsidy. Move on or start another thread why Outfitters guaranteed tags are good for the state of Montana.

How much I wanted to take scalps, but it was not my kill.



12-23-2014, 03:51 PM

#56



Greenhorn

Senior Member

Join Date: Dec 2000
Posts: 4,768

E

Eric's still butt hurt over 161 even though his clients licences are cheaper and still guaranteed. Very confusing.



12-23-2014, 03:54 PM

#58



BuzzH

Senior Member

Join Date: Jan 2001
Location: Laramie, WY
Posts: 7,138

E

Shoots-straight, well said.

Also, just so you know, I got a phone call from T. Aldrich about our HMA/WIHA programs and I passed along a lot of helpful information to him. He was jotting down notes while we were on the phone and hopefully you MT guys will find it of some use in regard to the BM program.

"...the world outside, which my brother and I soon discovered, was full of bastards, the number increasing rapidly the farther one gets from Missoula, Montana." -Norman Maclean

"They were still so young they hadn't learned to count the odds and to sense they might owe the universe a tragedy"
-Norman Maclean



12-23-2014, 04:23 PM

#57



Ben Lamb

Senior Member

Join Date: Aug 2010
Location: Helena
Posts: 4,863

E

Quote:

Originally Posted by Eric Albus
well, from what I have read here, can't even come to a consensus amongst the like minded OYO folks and other the other assortment of "liberal minded thinkers" on a stamp(you can each sort out who you are) ☺

Whilst something is needed to tax the resident sportsman to help fund BM a \$25 stamp is certainly not out of order.....but what pray tell are the good folks going to see for their extra \$25. This is the same thing as the non-resident whose license went up 40-60% after 161....did the "common man" see a 40% increase in quality of hunt? in acres to access??? No, they did not see anything. The "unwashed masses" were sold a false bill of goods....promises to "open more access", "break the outfitters", "level the playing field". I have often wondered if the those supporting the bill did not know what would happen, giving them, and their friends, access to easy draw licenses and enabling them to come in and lease hunting lands for themselves? I digress...back on track.

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You mean like a type 1 and type 2 BMA where you have to reserve your days? We have that.

FTR, I hunt Type 1 BMA's that are full of game. In fact, one in particular I was able to hunt sharpies, pronghorn and quality mule deer. I had to share it with another group of hunters, but since the BMA was about 20 sections, I didn't have much problem with them.

I like the idea of a stamp. I'm also not opposed to ensuring better quality in some areas through a lottery or permit like we do on the Marias or a lot of places do through their own lottery (like Pine Butte Preserve on the Front).

After talking with Kelly about his bill drafts, I think his intent is to get the money to the cooperators by increasing the payments. Those payments haven't gone up in a long, long time and if we were to simply adjust for inflation, we'd be looking at max payments around 100% higher than what they are now.

Block Management is a great program. Sure it has some warts, but what doesn't? I'd rather we fund the program, and the agency, so that we can argue about how to best make the rules fit with what we want, rather than starve the agency and program until they're run perfectly. We've seen how that scenario has worked with congress and our public land agencies.

Quote:

In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing.

Theodore Roosevelt



12-23-2014, 04:25 PM

#58



Randy11
Senior Member

Join Date: Jan 2009
Location: Bitterroot Valley
Posts: 3,896

Quote:

Originally Posted by Eric Albus

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There's quite a few BMA's that you have to enter a lottery in order to hunt already...

"The emotions that good hunters need to cultivate are love and service more than courage. The sentiments of the hunt then become translated into art." - James Swan



12-23-2014, 05:34 PM

#59

Straight Arrow
Senior Member

Join Date: Jun 2009
Location: Gallatin Gateway, MT
Posts: 851

The question is, "Would you support the creation of a Block Management Stamp?"

Eric Albus, argumentative and unsubstantiated rhetoric about a voted-in initiative, I-161, or whatever is not helpful. Get over it! Your rhetoric, although consistent, is not healthy or positive for outfitters, landowners, and hunters. Stop and think about what you are attempting to express on this forum. The light is shining on you and unfortunately the shadows cast a vile image.

Shift your energy toward creative ideas to improve Block Management, hunting and outfitting in Montana.



12-23-2014, 06:13 PM

#60

BuzzH
Senior Member

Join Date: Jan 2001
Location: Laramie, WY
Posts: 7,138

Quote:

Originally Posted by Ben Lamb

You mean like a type 1 and type 2 BMA where you have to reserve your days? We have that.

FTR, I hunt Type 1 BMA's that are full of game. In fact, one in particular I was able to hunt sharpies, pronghorn and quality mule deer. I had to share it with another group of hunters, but since the BMA was about 20 sections, I didn't have much problem with them.

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I don't have a problem with increasing funding and payments to landowners, if, and only if, they are providing a decent experience and some level of opportunity. Right now it seems to maximize their payments, they have to run more hunters through to get to that max payment level. Not sure, but IME, those two usually aren't inclusive of one another...

Wyoming set up a program that rewards those landowners that are providing "above and beyond" reasonable opportunity to the public with \$2,000 awards, being publically thanked by Sportsmen as well as the Governor for their efforts, etc. in the HMA/WIHA programs. I've hunted on one of the ranches that received 1 of the 4 awards, well deserved by that particular landowner.

To many of the landowners, the simple fact of being recognized for what they are graciously providing, is enough....the 2K doesn't hurt either...☺

Lots of ways to skin a cat and I'm confident that Montana can easily, and quickly, take some steps to improve the BM program.

I'd start by choosing my BM coordinators very carefully. Ran into a retired BM coordinator this year, listened to his BS for long enough to know he wasn't cut out for that line of work.

"...the world outside, which my brother and I soon discovered, was full of bastards, the number increasing rapidly the farther one gets from Missoula, Montana." -Norman Maclean

"They were still so young they hadn't learned to count the odds and to sense they might owe the universe a tragedy"
-Norman Maclean



12-23-2014, 08:35 PM

#61

.280 Remington

Senior Member

Join Date: Aug 2012
Posts: 130

I would definitely support a stamp to hunt Montana's BMA lands.

Additionally, I think the system could be "tightened up" a bit and probably save some money there. Some of the blocks I've hunted in MT have been great. Others terrible. And as has been mentioned, I've suspected landowners letting friends/relatives have preference on several occasions.



12-23-2014, 06:47 PM

#62

Ben Lamb

Senior Member

Join Date: Aug 2012
Location: Helena
Posts: 4,863

Quote:

Originally Posted by **BuzzH**

I don't have a problem with increasing funding and payments to landowners, if, and only if, they are providing a decent experience and some level of opportunity. Right now it seems to maximize their payments, they have to run more hunters through to get to that max payment level. Not sure, but IME, those two usually aren't inclusive of one another...

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I'd start by choosing my BM coordinators very carefully. Ran into a retired BM coordinator this year, listened to his BS for long enough to know he wasn't cut out for that line of work.

The concept behind block was that it supposedly paid for the impacts hunters created (weeds, fence problems, etc). Those costs have risen in the last 20 years, while the price paid to cooperators has not. Even in type 1 BMA's, that means that by running the max hunter use days, you still end up in deficit (more hunters = more impacts).

WY's program is great. But it's a product of WY and I wouldn't want to trade the ample opportunity I have in MT for a system like WY's. I agree that there are some tweaks that should be made regarding BMA coordinators and some kind of uniform application of BMA agreements that include habitat components and reasonable expectations for hunter use days. Just not sure how you achieve that in an agency that has 7 semi-autonomous regions.

One thing against the stamp I've heard is from the Plum Creek side. They are the largewst landowner in Block, with around 750,000 acres. There is a rumor that if a stamp is approved, they would pull their land and issue their own stamp or institute a pay to play situation. Corporate HQ is already pushing them to move to the same system they have in OR/WA.

Quote:

In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing.

Theodore Roosevelt



12-23-2014 09:20 PM

#63

BuzzH

Senior Member

Join Date: Jan 2001
Location: Laramie, WY
Posts: 7,138

Ben,

I agree, the last thing I'd ever do is look at what's successful in other states and apply same in mine...

"...the world outside, which my brother and I soon discovered, was full of bastards, the number increasing rapidly the farther one gets from Missoula, Montana." -Norman Maclean

"They were still so young they hadn't learned to count the odds and to sense they might owe the universe a tragedy"
-Norman Maclean



12-23-2014, 09:33 PM

#64

Coyotes-R-Us

Member

Join Date: Sep 2014
Posts: 63

I am fully against any kind of "STAMP" or More fee to hunt any BMA!

NO

NO

NO !!!



12-23-2014, 09:35 PM

#65

Ben Lamb

Senior Member

Join Date: Aug 2010
Location: Helena
Posts: 4,863

Quote:

Originally Posted by **BuzzH**

Ben,

I agree, the last thing I'd ever do is look at what's successful in other states and apply same in mine...

That's not what i meant, but nice post

Quote:

In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing.

Theodore Roosevelt



12-23-2014, 10:01 PM

#66



Kneetopia

Member

Join Date: Nov 2012
Location: Missoula, MT
Posts: 41

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Big Fin**

MT's BMA program was the first and has a lot of good attributes, but from a technology standpoint, which would greatly increase efficiency and enroll a lot more acreage for the same, or less, money, MT is in the dark ages.

WY gives their landowners a lot of input. They have both a Walk-in program and a Hunter Management program like our BMA. When you look at how they rank properties and what they enroll, they are able to enroll some of the best big game properties in a unit, for elk, deer, and antelope. In MT, we struggle to enroll much for elk. WY has found ways to compete in the very expensive world of elk access. We could learn a lot from that.

ID prioritizes based on how much additional public acreage a property can provide access to. As a result, the access issue in ID is getting addressed with a lot fewer dollars than in MT.

As much as I pressed for a stamp in past years and I have no problem with a stamp, I would almost make it part of a bill that changes some of the rules/priorities/SOPs that the department uses in administering this program. Add the revenue from a \$25 stamp to some of the efficiencies and implement some of the ideas working in other states, and you would be able to really do something big in the way of improving the status of access in MT.

I like these ideas and comments. As a regular user of MT BMA's I would be willing to pay more to improve and maintain what we got. I personally don't see the reason to buy a stamp, why not just include it in a fee (which the \$ are specifically earmarked for BMA's only) when you buy your tag online. Stamps? Really? As Big Fin alluded to there's no reason that Montana can't embrace technology. We don't need to step back in time.



12-23-2014, 10:02 PM

#67

BuzzH

Senior Member

Join Date: Jan 2001
Location: Laramie, WY
Posts: 7,138

Ben,

Just making sure you didn't fall asleep...guy your age and all.

"...the world outside, which my brother and I soon discovered, was full of bastards, the number increasing rapidly the farther one gets from Missoula, Montana." -Norman Maclean

"They were still so young they hadn't learned to count the odds and to sense they might owe the universe a tragedy"
-Norman Maclean



12-23-2014, 10:11 PM

#68

.280 Remington ●
Senior Member

Join Date: Aug 2012
Posts: 130



Quote:

Originally Posted by Coyotes-R-Us
I am fully against any kind of "STAMP" or More fee to hunt any BMA!

NO

NO

NO !!!

Point taken!!



12-23-2014, 10:11 PM

#69

.280 Remington ●
Senior Member

Join Date: Aug 2012
Posts: 130



Ben,

Why would Plum Creek pull their land out of the BMA system?



12-23-2014, 10:17 PM

#70



shoots-straight ●
Senior Member

Join Date: Oct 2005
Location: Bitterroot Valley
Posts: 4,578



Quote:

Originally Posted by Coyotes-R-Us
I am fully against any kind of "STAMP" or More fee to hunt any BMA!

NO

NO

NO !!!

Yep, still only counts as one persons opinion.
You don't have to shout.

How much I wanted to take scalps, but it was not my kill.



12-23-2014, 10:28 PM

#71

RobG ●
Senior Member

Join Date: Dec 2010
Location: Bozeman, MT
Posts: 1,501



Quote:

Originally Posted by shoots-straight
I'd like us to stay of topic here.

For the record, 161 has made far more money for the state of Montana and BM than had we been left to the old Outfitter set asides. FACT!

Then they should have upped the prices for the set asides before, well upping the prices of the licenses after 161. Kind of the same effect, except the latter hit the ones that couldn't afford it. You can say all you want, the but NRs got the screws with it and now we are scratching our heads trying to figure out how to generate money... that would be a fact too you know. Bring back the outfitter sponsored licenses... it is a better option that this stamp. Your second fact claimed it didn't hurt the outfitters so it doesn't help them that much either.

So maybe someone can tell me this. If we all have to pay \$25+ so the landowners can be paid, how is this different from the landowners just charging an access fee? Ignoring, of course, the significant waste of funneling this money through the MFWP bureaucracy. Why go through the agency? Just have the ranchers collect directly and call it BMA. I bet people here would have a problem with that, but it is really what the program is being reduced to when you start talking stamps for participants.

JMO,
Rob



12-23-2014 10:53 PM

#72

.280 Remington

Senior Member

Join Date: Aug 2012
Posts: 130

Quote:

Originally Posted by RobG

So maybe someone can tell me this. If we all have to pay \$25+ so the landowners can be paid, how is this different from the landowners just charging an access fee? Ignoring, of course, the significant waste of funneling this money through the MFWP bureaucracy. Why go through the agency? Just have the ranchers collect directly and call it BMA. I bet people here would have a problem with that, but it is really what the program is being reduced to when you start talking stamps for participants.

If it were left up to them, I really doubt Montana landowners would charge \$25/person to hunt all of the land in the entire BMA system.



12-23-2014 11:02 PM

#73

RobG
Senior Member

Join Date: Dec 2010
Location: Bozeman, MT
Posts: 1,501

Quote:

Originally Posted by .280 Remington

If it were left up to them, I really doubt Montana landowners would charge \$25/person to hunt all of the land in the entire BMA system.

Not sure what you are saying, but at this time BMA "cooperators can receive up to \$11 per hunter day in compensation."

<http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j...82001339.d.cGU>

I don't know the current breakdown of who pays how much.



12-23-2014 11:11 PM

#74

.280 Remington

Senior Member

Join Date: Aug 2012
Posts: 130

Quote:

Originally Posted by RobG

Not sure what you are saying, but at this time BMA "cooperators can receive up to \$11 per hunter day in compensation."

<http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j...82001339.d.cGU>

I don't know the current breakdown of who pays how much.

I'm saying that if you scrapped the BMA system and allowed Montana LO's just collect a fee, hunters would be right back to where they were without the BMA system.



12-23-2014, 11:20 PM

#75

shoots-straight
Senior Member

Join Date: Oct 2005
Location: Bitterroot Valley
Posts: 4,578

Quote:

Originally Posted by RobG

Then they should have upped the prices for the set asides before, well upping the prices of the licenses after 161. Kind of the same effect, except the latter hit the ones that couldn't afford it. You can say all you want, the but NRs got the screws with it and now we are scratching our heads trying to figure out how to generate money... that would be a fact too you know. Bring back the outfitter sponsored licenses... it is a better option that this stamp. Your second fact claimed it didn't hurt the outfitters so it doesn't help them that much either.

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JMO,
Rob

Start another thread Rob

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12-23-2014, 11:31 PM

#76

**ShootsManyBullets**
Senior MemberJoin Date: Dec 2013
Location: Vegas
Posts: 320

I'm in favor of a stamp for BMAs but only if they cleaned up the program. Make the reservations online so we don't get the BS that they are full when they are not. I've had it happen to me a couple times where I've been told the BMA is booked and driven by to see no one using it too. Seems that there should be a way to get more bang for our bucks on this and also be able to pay the landowners more.

I would not be opposed to restricting vehicle travel on the BMAs as a way to help ensure landowners' properties aren't damaged by traffic, etc.

I think MT should look at the best features of the other states' programs and tweak theirs to modernize it.



12-23-2014, 11:33 PM

#77

**RobG**
Senior MemberJoin Date: Dec 2010
Location: Bozeman, MT
Posts: 1,501

Quote:

Originally Posted by **shoots-straight**
Start another thread Rob

I'm sorry, I didn't realize this was only for people who think this is a good idea and/or don't have an alternative. Carry on Robert.



12-23-2014, 11:41 PM

#78

**RobG**
Senior MemberJoin Date: Dec 2010
Location: Bozeman, MT
Posts: 1,501

Quote:

Originally Posted by **.280 Remington**
I'm saying that if you scrapped the BMA system and allowed Montana LO's just collect a fee, hunters would be right back to where they were without the BMA system.

It wasn't meant to be a perfect analogy, just to show the silliness of funneling the money through the FPW by buying a stamp. At the risk of getting Robert's undies into a bigger bunch, I'll suggest letting them advertize through the FWP would be a more complete analogy. That doesn't seem like a very smart idea compared to some of the other options which aren't allowed to be discussed.



12-23-2014, 11:52 PM

#79

**HSi-ESi**
Senior MemberJoin Date: Nov 2012
Posts: 266

I think that we should come up with some idea's to make the BMA system stronger in MT - not complain about compensation and I-161. Let's look towards connecting hunters and landowners so we have a system that increases participation from all sides.

I would be in favor of online enrollment. Feature wise it will need to include some type of mailing feature to reach LO's that don't have reliable internet (or can't utilize the internet). Weekly reports on enrolled hunters going to LO's, permission slips going to each enrolled hunter. Pretty simple stuff that would lower overhead on management.



Has anyone distilled complaints over the current system? I.E. Abuses from either side? I know some examples have been thrown out in this thread - but can we categorize and address these?



12-24-2014 12:53 AM

#25



Bulldog0156
Senior Member

Join Date: Mar 2013
Location: Glasgow, MT
Posts: 261



I'm curious how an online registration system would work. How do you avoid letting one guy lock up a bunch of different places every day of the season?



12-24-2014 01:18 AM

#26

BuzzH
Senior Member

Join Date: Jan 2001
Location: Laramie, WY
Posts: 7,138



bulldog0156,

Its really easy actually, the computer is a wonderful new gadget that Montana should look into.

Wyoming dealt with this exact problem several years ago.

"...the world outside, which my brother and I soon discovered, was full of bastards, the number increasing rapidly the farther one gets from Missoula, Montana." -Norman Maclean

"They were still so young they hadn't learned to count the odds and to sense they might owe the universe a tragedy"
-Norman Maclean



12-24-2014 01:22 AM

#27



shoots-straight
Senior Member

Join Date: Oct 2005
Location: Bitterroot Valley
Posts: 4,578



Not sure if the fact that our F&G dept not owning their web site is a problem or not. Maybe a computer nerd might help us out on that little detail.

How much I wanted to take scalps, but it was not my kill.



12-24-2014 01:33 AM

#28

JLS
Senior Member

Join Date: Mar 2012
Location: Between the Columbia and the Clark Fork
Posts: 1,423



Quote:

Originally Posted by **Bulldog0156**

I'm curious how an online registration system would work. How do you avoid letting one guy lock up a bunch of different places every day of the season?

It's really easy. The Hunt By Reservation system in Washington only allows three active reservations at a time. You set up an account with your Wild ID #, and the website will not allow you to reserve (or be in another party) a property if you are maxed out.

Why Montana is still paying people to (or having landowners) fill out permission slips is beyond me. Going online reduces costs, increases convenience, and prevents the abuse of the line "sorry we are all full" that does go on.

Edit: Online services would also create the really neat ability to do lottery drawings for hunt dates.☺

Welcome to the 21st century.

Last edited by JLS; 12-24-2014 at 02:09 AM.



12-24-2014 02:08 AM

#29

1976
Member

Join Date: Jan 2011
Location: Mohall, ND
Posts: 24



Since I already stated that us NR pay very well to hunt in MT I would not be against paying another 25\$ max for a BM specific stamp or additional fee as long as it goes for both NR and R. As far as the habitat issue goes that is tough to decipher. The CRP could have come out which is happening yearly and really sucks, however in the middle of that section out of site is a nice draw or slough that holds deer and birds that few people know about. The landowner has set the BM up to its all or none with the good and the bad with the state, that happens a lot in ND's walk in program, my opinion is better to have it than not.



12-24-2014, 02:35 AM

#85

Pinecricer

Member

Join Date: Dec 2014
Location: North Idaho
Posts: 64

Not a big fan of these programs...

...I'm not super familiar with how it works in Montana, so I won't comment on your specific proposal. However, we have a similar program here in Idaho called "Access Yes", and in my opinion, it is a bit of a scam. Many of the properties in the program aren't very good quality hunting, and they are poorly distributed around the state. Almost all of them are in Southern Idaho, which doesn't help us much here in North Idaho.

After hunting a few of the Access Yes properties and researching others, I came to the conclusion that the program benefits land owners more than it benefits hunters. With this, I really don't like the idea of all hunters being forced to pay for a program that only benefits a few, especially when those benefits are marginal. The people that use them should pay for them. Plus, having more money is also no guarantee that good quality land will get added to the program. It also creates the risk that landowners who allow public access on their land for free will start demanding money. This could be a problem in the case of the large tracts of private timber lands we have here in Idaho, which are currently open to the public.

Again, I am not familiar with how it works in Montana but I think the Idaho system demonstrates some of the weaknesses and risks that come along with these types of programs. Something to consider.



12-24-2014, 02:20 PM

#86

Eric Albus

Senior Member

Join Date: May 2012
Posts: 313

RobG, for the record, I do not wish to go back to the OSL....I can understand your rational for wanting to go back to it, but no thanks.

I do not hunt BM, so was not aware that there are different rules for different tracts. The only type I have ever seen here is sign in at the box and go hunting.

The only thing wrong w/ a \$25 stamp is it's just one more thing to remember. Why not go forward legislatively and raise the price of the resident deer and elk license to \$30 and ear mark a percentage to fund the better types of block management....perhaps the best ones hunted only by lottery, and if drawn can not enter draw again for a 1-2 yr. period?

what my little rant in my previous post was pointing out...for those of you who did not get it (seems like the vast majority)....the increase in license price drove the masses away from applying for a license in Montana....due to the fact they did not see an increase of 40 to 60% in their hunting opportunity (just in license price)...if joe six-pack saw a 60% increase in hunting quality/opportunity the deer license would be a true draw again.....oh, and shoots....part of the sales pitch for 161 was "increased access".....

Last edited by Eric Albus; 12-24-2014 at 02:28 PM.



12-24-2014, 04:18 PM

#87

ingomar

Senior Member

Join Date: Jun 2009
Posts: 116

Very interesting and informative thread. From the comments it becomes apparent that BM properties come in all different colors, some good and some bad. No one wants to throw the baby out with the bathwater, but tweaking the program to address some of its flaws would be a very good thing.

The last major legislation impacting Block Management was HB 607 which allowed non-residents, who did not draw an elk tag in a permit area, to receive a refund from FWP. The big problem is that the FWP had the bill written so that when the turned back license was re-sold, the money went into the FWP general fund as opposed to the Block Management account where it was originally intended to go. Don't hold me to this, but I think there was like a \$800,000 yearly loss to Block Management under this legislation. FWP does not like earmarked funds as they want to be able to move the dollars around as they see fit. It is imperative that funds for programs such as Block Management and Habitat Montana not be pirated for other purposes.

An online system for BM is critical to bring the program into the 21st century. If only those using BM are required to pay, there should be no complaints from those who choose not to hunt on BMA's.

Judging by the number of views and comments it is obvious that Block Management is an important component of the Montana hunting landscape and people are concerned with it's future.

I would assume that both Rep. Flynn and FWP are monitoring the comments and hopefully are incorporated them into their thought process as they move forward.



12-25-2014, 08:05 AM

#88

bigskyblueman

Senior Member

Join Date: Aug 2013
Location: Bozeman, Montana
Posts: 278

A number of good ideas exchanged here. The program is a good one with improvements to come, at some point. Separating the funding by user and non-user is a concern, as it can be used to the detriment to the program. Given the make up of the committee, and who is running it, I'll reserve judgement.



12-25-2014, 02:08 PM

#89

antlerradar

Member

Join Date: Oct 2012
Posts: 53

A few years ago I attended the Block Management dinner in Miles City. I was struck by the age of the ranchers that are in Block Management. Very few were under the

age of 70. It dawned on me the type of ranches that are in Block are owned by the older long time residents of Montana. Ranchers that have owned there places for generations and value traditional Montana hunting. The problem I see in the future for Block is that in the not to distant future is all of the ranches will be changing owners. Some will be passed down to the next generation and the tradition will continue but many will be sold like the Diamond ranch. Over time the ranches with the best hunting will become private hunting clubs and Block Management will be left with the poorer quality ranches. I have seen a big increase in the demand for leasing of private land in the last few years. I have had more people ask about leasing than ever before. Some Outfitters but it is mostly out of state hunters looking for a private lease for them and a few friends. If Outfitters have any thing to worry about with the passage of 1161. It is not that there clients will not get tags but that now with the availability of tags hunting clubs will out compete them for the best ranches. Block Management will never keep up.

antleradar



12-25-2014, 03:56 PM

#90

Straight Arrow

Senior Member

Join Date: Jun 2009
Location: Gallatin Gateway, MT
Posts: 851



Quote:

Ranchers that have owned there places for generations and value traditional Montana hunting.

antleradar, I think you have hit on a key characteristic of the current BM system. Once the BMA booklet includes the Wilks' ranches then we'll know it has become successful for sure.



12-25-2014 04:33 PM

#91



RobertR
Senior Member

Join Date: Aug 2012
Location: Glen, Montana
Posts: 153

Antleradar I agree that the next generation will be selling the game to the highest bidder.

I've seen it first hand. A place my family had hunted for three generation was sold and it went from block management to being shut off to the public for an outfitter. BM is a good thing for those who don't hunt public land, but BM is just another subsidy for ranchers and using a public resource for profit.

I'M NOT AFRAID OF COMMITMENT I'VE BEEN HUNTING AND FISHING MY WHOLE LIFE!



12-25-2014, 07:14 PM

#92

Eric Albus

Senior Member

Join Date: May 2012
Posts: 313



BM is a subsidy? I thought it was an incentive to open lands for the public.... perhaps there is something wrong w/ how I view privilege of access? BM is a good thing for everyone who hunts in Mt....the more acres open, the less pressure on other open acres.

Last edited by Eric Albus; 12-25-2014 at 07:21 PM.



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